

CHRONICLE-UNION.

BRIDGEPORT, DECEMBER 24, 1891.

LOCAL INTELLIGENCE.

Personal.

Judge N. D. Arnot is holding Court at Fairville for Judge Bennett.

Mrs. W. H. Russell, of Benton, has gone to San Francisco for her health, which is much impaired.

Mrs. Wilcox, of Boston, a niece of the late Wm. Moorey, arrived on Wednesday. Miss Ella Ferris, of Denver, is here visiting her aunt, Mrs. James Rinnaman.

Harvey Boone was over from Bodie the first of the week.

Mamie Parker is visiting her father, W. O. Parker, having arrived last evening from Ogden.

THE CHRISTMAS TREE.—There was a large gathering at Bryant's Hall on Christmas Eve to witness the Christmas Tree exercises prepared by Professor Hampton and pupils of the Bridgeport School, notwithstanding the inclemency of the weather kept many at home. The exercises commenced at 8 o'clock sharp and went through without a hitch. The program, comprising choruses, solos, duets and recitations, was short, but long enough for the younger ones, who were anxious to get their presents and have a dance. The exercises closed with the Dorelogy, sung by the school, and all taking part did well. The tree—a mammoth one, was well loaded, and it took a long time to distribute the presents, but the little folks had their dance, all the same, it being about one o'clock before the lights were put out—and thus all had a joyful Christmas Eve—but wasn't it cold going home!

HAZARD.—The Genoa Courier says that a party recently passed through Genoa and reported 15 inches of snow at Bridgeport and that the road from Genoa to Bridgeport was bare. That is not true. We have had but seven inches of snow here this winter, and that quickly settled to half that amount. When we have 15 inches of snow at Bridgeport "the road between here and Genoa is not 'bare' by considerable. How this world is given to lying.

BOISTEROUS.—The weather this week has been far from pleasant—sunny and cold North winds, being in order. We had two cold nights, the thermometer getting down to 10 degrees below zero on Thursday morning, and 20 degrees below zero yesterday morning at 7:30. To-day is cloudy with every appearance of an approaching snow storm. The old year seems to be taking its departure in a sulky mood.

THE BALL.—The ball at Bryant's Hall last evening was well attended, and a pleasant party. Heath, Hayes and Patterson furnished good music, and at 11 o'clock Mrs. L. Donnel had a fine supper for the hungry mortals. It was after 3 o'clock when the party broke up, and all went home well pleased with their Christmas doings.

LAND PATENTS.—The following Patents have been received at the United States Land Office, Independence, and will be delivered upon the surrender of the corresponding Duplicate Receipts:

164—Geo. F. Drake, 165—Harold Preston, 456—Benj. T. Brown, 462—Frank Francis, 464—W. T. Barnes, 482—James Hand, 484—John Duffy.

FREIGHTS.—Russell's team arrived from Carson on Saturday afternoon last with freight for our merchants and supplies for the OROCHOCO UNION. He left for Carson on Sunday for another load.

Nay's teams were here on Monday to load for Lundy.

LOOK OUT.—La Grippe has taken hold of San Francisco, but not in a violent form. It is spreading throughout the State, and people should be cautious and not catch cold, and when they do catch one, should not neglect it, but squelch it at once.

THE BAND.—The Bridgeport Brass Band, which was demoralized by the Summer work scattering its members, is again to the front and this week they gave our citizens some good music under the leadership of O. L. Hayes.

THANKS.—We acknowledge receipt of complimentary ticket for the Grand Uniform Ball, to be given by the Knights of Pythias, on New Year's Eve, at Bodie. As usual, it will be worthy of the Order.

Bridgeport is ready to furnish a regiment for the next war—and Mono county could furnish two more, if the warriors remain as brave as they were during the Ah Quong Tin market. They could be offered by the Grand Jury Braves.

THE MUSIC.—The music for the Knights of Pythias Ball at Bodie on New Year's Eve will be furnished by O. L. Hayes, O. E. Heath, and Grant Patterson, and we can assure our Bodie friends it will be good.

CHRISTMAS DINNER.—By invitation, we enjoyed a fine turkey dinner at the Allen House. St. Peter kindly remembers the friends of the poor printer.

WINE MEET.—The Board of Supervisors will meet in regular session on next Monday week.

HAPPY NEW YEAR.—We wish our friends a "Happy New Year."

Now is the time to forget old resolutions, and stick to them.

COUNTY PRINTING.

Unjust Discrimination.

An Open Letter to the Board of Supervisors.

Coincident with the "Bodie Boom" was the advent of the Printing Press into Mono county. From the time of that memorable event to within four years, the County Government recognized that the Publishers were "worthy of their hire," and fair rates for county advertising were allowed by the Board of Supervisors. But, four years ago the Supervisors, by the force of circumstances arising from dishonorable competition, availed themselves of the opportunity to reduce rates, which have been steadily lowered to starvation points. The Board ignored the fact that the competition was for the avowed intention to crush out all opposition and thus pave the way for "high rates." Now what are regular rates, as compared with those fixed by the Board? We cite one instance: N. B. Hunsenwill, your Chairman, sometime since paid \$15 for a short advertisement for a mining patent—at rates fixed by the General Land Office—had it been county advertising, the price would have been \$3; thus a private individual paid \$15 while the 600 taxpayers would have paid 1/2 cent each. The rates for county advertising in Mono county are far below those of any other county in the State, and yet the cost of living in this county is higher than any other in the State. The county Government cannot purchase supplies or procure labor at lower prices than a private individual, and yet the Board of Supervisors, for the past four years, have fixed advertising rates at 1/2 of regular prices. Is it right? Is it just? The publishers of Mono county are members of the California Press Association—an organization for the mutual benefit of, and to advance the interests of its members, by securing harmony and preventing ruinous competition. As a right, we simply desire to be placed on a par with others who furnish supplies or labor for the county, and be paid regular rates for the work we perform for the county. We ask for nothing more, and expect nothing less. The Code authorizes you to fix rates of advertising, and why? To protect the county from exorbitant prices, and the publishers from too low prices. The late Judge Briggs said: "The Supervisors can not compel a publisher to take advertisements at less than regular rates, but should he refuse to publish the Delinquent Tax Sales at rates fixed by the Board, and then, considering that its non-publication would entail loss to the State and county, publish it, the Court would protect the publisher, at regular rates; also the county against excessive charges." A few months since, the Board of Supervisors of Sacramento County fixed rates not acceptable to the publishers—all of whom are members of the California Press Association, and they refused to take the advertisements, whereupon, at a special meeting, the Board reponed, at the low rates, and, recognizing the just claims of the publishers, unanimously fixed the rates accordingly.

R. M. & A. C. FOLGER.

ALFRED V. MORAN.

THAT 'GROWL.'—The Bodie Miner is trying to apologize for the Postmaster of that place for not sending the letter mail through to Bridgeport on several occasions, and says we have commenced our annual "growl" over mail matters, and denies, on the authority of its Postmaster, that our letter mail was delayed more than once, and then "the Postmaster was in such a hurry" he forgot to send the letter packages. We know of our own knowledge that the mail was kept back twice—once on a Saturday night, thereby keeping our citizens without their letters until Monday night—48 hours, and one Monday night, when we should have had the letters of Friday and Saturday's mail, nothing but papers were sent down. Being in "a hurry" is no excuse. A Postmaster should not be in such a hurry that he cannot distribute a mail properly—that is what he is there for. We never "growl" about the mail unless our people have a grievance—and no one knows this better than our young friend of the Miner.

GRAND OPENING.—B. L. Simmons, on last Saturday evening, opened his new saloon, on the corner of Court House Square and Main street, with colat. The Brass Band furnished good music, and Simmons had a fine turkey lunch for his visitors—and he had a big crowd until after midnight.

A SIBERIAN.—Marion Richardson opened his new saloon, in the Gurney Building, on Saturday evening last. He has a "Siberian," and the saloon is neat and very cozy. He had a crowd to see his new quarters.

Joe A. Brown has in store holiday goods for the New Year.

SOMETHING FOR THE NEW YEAR.

The world renowned success of Hostetter's Stomach Bitters, and their continued popularity for over a third of a century as a stomachic, is scarcely more wonderful than the welcome that greets the annual appearance of Hostetter's Almanac. This valuable medical treatise is published by The Hostetter Company, Pittsburgh, Pa., under their own immediate supervision, employing 60 hands in that department. They are running about 11 months in the year on this work, and the issue of same for 1892 will be more than ten millions, printed in the English, German, French, Welsh, Norwegian, Holland, Swedish, Bohemian and Spanish languages. Refer to a copy of it for valuable and interesting reading concerning health, and numerous testimonials as to the efficacy of Hostetter's Stomach Bitters, amusements, varied information, astronomical calculations and chronological items, etc., which can be depended on for correctness. The Almanac for 1892 can be obtained free of cost, from druggists and general country dealers in all parts of the country.

MONO COUNTY MINES.

The year about to close has witnessed more substantial prospecting of mining interests in Mono county than has been done for many years past, and with a success that promises a lively mining "boom" for the county next Spring. In every district there are mines that promise to be bullion producers next Summer. Among these are, notably, the

LAKEVIEW.

This mine is in the Homer Mining District, near Lundy, and about twenty miles from Bridgeport. A large body of gold ore has been disclosed, and which is being worked to one of the small local mills. As it belongs to a close corporation of Maine men, the shipments of bullion are not given to the world, for the benefit of Lundy and Old Mono generally, but it is sufficient to know that the mine has shown a value that has induced the owners, who are all shrewd business men, to erect a mill at the mine for the more expeditious working of the ores, which seem to be unlimited in quantity. The Company last Fall sent one of its owners, C. A. Dyer, of Calais, Me., to the mine, to ascertain if the property would warrant the erection of a mill. He soon found that a mill proportionate with the output of the mine was the one thing useful to make the Lakeview a "bonanza" for its away-down East owners, and having full authority to act, he at once bought the Spaulding Mill at Bodie, the machinery of which had been used but little and was comparatively new, and had it taken down and removed to the mine for re-erection. Mr. Dyer superintended the entire work of removal and re-erection and has returned home to report to his brother owners the result of his visit to old Mono, and which cannot but be satisfactory and highly gratifying to them, as well as it is to the people of Mono county who well know the value of the Lakeview mine. The mill building is completed—and a large and substantial edifice it is, and everything is ready for the setting of the machinery, but which will not be put in until early in the Spring, when a month or six weeks' work will place the mill—a ten-lamp, in fine working order. The tramway for transporting the ore from the mine to the mill is in fine working order, and as the mill will be run by water power, the cost of the working of the Lakeview ores will be very low, leaving a grand profit for the fortunate owners. We look for great results from the Lakeview next Summer, and for a steady output of bullion. We congratulate the "down-Easters" on their fortunate investment, and in having sent so thorough a business man, and energetic withal, as Mr. Dyer proved to be, to look after their interests in Mono county. We also congratulate the people of our county on the opening up of another good mine, evidence that the precious metals permeates the whole county.

There are many other valuable mines in the Homer District, and adjacent to the Lakeview, which are being steadily worked by their owners, who now and then ship a little bullion to the outside world, which enable them to work their mines and live well, and leave some over for a rainy day, knowing the time will come when capital will want their mines at a fair valuation.

Bodie.

The work in the Bodie mines goes steadily on, the old reliable Standard Con. making its regular monthly shipments of bullion. The "unpleasantness" so long existing between the Bulwer Con. and Standard Con., and which was a detriment to both corporations and the district, has been settled, and the Bulwer will soon have a mill running on the rich "ore" so long in dispute.

The Standard has declared a dividend of 10 cents a share—a Christmas present to its stockholders.

Benton.

The mines about Benton are being worked quietly and profitably, most of the ore being shipped to the Selby works at Vallejo Junction for reduction, at a freightage of about \$8 a ton. We cannot say how much the yearly output of bullion from the Benton mines would foot up, but it amounts to a good round sum—at any rate, the Bentonians seem to enjoy life and take solid comfort.

Green Creek.

This District, contiguous to Bridgeport, will make a good name for itself next Summer. The Ward and Ryan claim has been opened sufficiently to warrant the erection of an arrastra, or small mill, the rock showing free gold, of which there seems to be an abundance. Other claims, which are looking well, will be prospected vigorously next Summer.

PATTERSON DISTRICT.

More substantial, intelligent mining has been done in this District this year than for some years back. Instead of doing a little work here and there, which amounts to nothing, work has been confined more to the claims which are known to be worth spending money and labor on to hasten their development to a paying proposition, and the consequence is, there are several claims that will be worthy the attention of capitalists next Summer. Among the promising are the Homestead, Kentucky, Look-out, Monte Cristo, the Murphey claim, and Rattler, upon which the most work has been done. It takes money to open a mine to a paying proposition, and that is the only item lacking in making the Patterson District, Mono county, a grand bullion producer. If these mines were in Siberia, Alaska, or Greenland, there would be found capital to invest in them, but they

are too near home; but the time is rapidly approaching when they will compel capital to recognize the Patterson District.

The prospects of the county, from its extreme northern boundary to its southern, for even Antelope Valley on the north has pretensions to having good mining prospects, were never so flattering as at this time, and our people confidently look for the coming year to be a busy and prosperous one for Mono county. With a decrease in county expenses, and an increased assessment roll, coupled with a decrease in the State tax next year, we may look for a still further decrease in the rate of county taxes in '92, all of which is evidence of prosperity.

THE INDIAN QUEEN.

The great Indian Queen—Poorman mining suit, which was on trial at Hawthorne, Nev., last week, resulted in a disagreement of the jury, which stood 8 to 4, after being out all night. The 8 were in favor of defendant Wm. Wetherill et al. owners of the Poorman. The mines are adjoining mines in the Onondaga District, near Benton in Mono county, but are in Esmeralda county, and are in a great measure owned by Ben. tonians. Both claim a certain ledge, which is being contested for. One more jurymen, would have given Wetherill the verdict, it requiring only 9 in civil suits to make a verdict. Judge Rising dissolved the injunction against Wetherill taking out ore from the disputed ground. The contestants had better have a love feast and settle the dispute outside the Courts. As the case now stands Wetherill and his partners in the Poorman have the best of the fight.

We get the following Mason Valley items from the Dayton, Nev., Times:

La Grippe has again made its appearance in the valley.

Hock Mason has sold his Mason Valley and Quinn river ranches to Miller & Lux.

The foundation wall is about completed for the cemetery.

DEATHS.

SEYMOUR—In Bodie, December 23d, Gustavus Augustus, son of August Seller, aged 3 years, 11 months and 12 days.

HICKS—In Bodie, December 23d, Helen, daughter of Wm. Hicks, aged 4 years, 4 months and 17 days.

SEWING MACHINES.



THE NEW HOME SEWING MACHINE COMPANY,

Pacific Department—Distributing Office,

725 Market Street, History Building,

SAN FRANCISCO.



BEST

JOB PRINTING

AT

THIS OFFICE,

AT THE

LOWEST RATES.

MISCELLANEOUS.

A FRESH AND

GENERAL

ASSORTMENT OF THE BEST

OF GOODS

AT THE

LOWEST CASH PRICES.

D. HAYS & BRO.

CHEAP CASH STORE

AT THE

POSTOFFICE BUILDING,

BRIDGEPORT.

EVERY DESCRIPTION

OF GOODS

REDUCED TO

BEDROCK PRICES.

A. F. BRYANT.

JOE A. BROWN,

General Merchandise,

Main Street, Bridgeport.

Choice Family Groceries,

Fancy and Toilet Articles,

Candies and Nuts,

Yankee Notions,

Powder, Shot, Caps and

Cartridges,

Stationery, etc., etc.

TYPE METAL

For Sale at

This Office

THIS PAPER

TO GET ONE A YEAR.

THE

CHRONICLE-UNION

IS THE

PIONEER JOURNAL

OF THE EASTERN SLOPE OF THE

SINIERA NEVADA MOUNTAINS,

PAWNBROKERS

and Methods Upon Which the Business is Conducted.

How the Law Relating to the Interest Rates is Evaded—Some Peculiar Features of the Loan Office Business.

There are fifty-three pawnbrokers' shops in Chicago. They pay to the city a yearly license of three hundred dollars each. Under a state law they are allowed to charge a maximum of three per cent. a month upon loans, but a great many evade the law. The state law also prohibits the brokers from charging for storage or insurance, or making any charge whatever excepting interest. Yet on a five dollar loan the broker will often get fifty cents instead of fifteen, the legal limit, says the Chicago Times.

The broker is required to send to the superintendent of police each day at twelve o'clock a list of all articles received by him as pledges during the preceding twenty-four hours, the amount loaned thereon, rate of interest to be paid, and the name, address and personal description of the borrower. The broker complies with the law and yet evades it. For instance: A man who has been taking in the town and in turn has been taken in wants five dollars on a pair of sleeve buttons. They are worth about twenty-five dollars. The broker will lend him five dollars and gives him a ticket entitling him to redeem the buttons at five dollars and fifty cents. The receipt reads loaned five dollars and fifty cents, when only five dollars was loaned.

"It is a very difficult matter to get convicting evidence against offenders of this class," said one of the detectives whose business it is to look after them, "because the borrower is glad to get the money, and equally glad to be able to redeem his pledge, and does not want to report the case. They are of a class who either do not care or wish to avoid publicity."

"Another way of evading the law," continued the detective, "is buying the article with the express understanding that it will be purchased again by the seller. For example, if you were to pledge your bull's-eye watch for twenty-five dollars he would charge you only seventy-five cents a month interest. But he will buy it from you at twenty-five dollars with the understanding that you repurchase it within thirty days at twenty-seven dollars and fifty cents. He knows very well that you will redeem it, because the watch is worth more than that, and you know very well that you will redeem it, even if you have to get a friend to 'carry' it for you, or sell the ticket for ten or fifteen dollars. The sale is a sham and an evasion of the law. Those who go to the pawnshop once generally go again, and they soon find that the broker will not lend three dollars or four dollars and issue a check for nine or twelve cents. He wants at least twenty-five cents on two dollars and fifty cents and fifty cents on five dollars. So they naturally fall into the system of and buying back, or letting the write in the ticket a larger amount than that actually received."

The pawnbrokers in this city are permitted to conduct business rather loosely as compared to the system in Paris. In that city, which has the most effective detective system in the world, the pledger must not only establish his identity to the satisfaction of the pawnbroker, but, if he fails to do so, the broker "seizes" the article and gives the man a ticket which states that the article offered has been seized and is held until the stranger can establish his claim to it. The case is then reported to the police, together with a full description of the man offering the pledge. If the article is very valuable and the circumstances suspicious the man is detained under some pretext and an officer summoned. For loans of more than three dollars there must be the signatures of two "honorable" witnesses. In Chicago no witnesses or identification are required. A pledger can give in a fictitious name and address and walk away with the money he has received on a stolen watch. However, brokers are prohibited from receiving pledges from minors, intoxicated persons or persons having been convicted of larceny or burglary, or those known to be thieves. The broker can shut his eyes and roll back his memory and evade these provisions as he does the others. But the system of identification in vogue in Paris would simplify matters a great deal and greatly aid the police and the public.

Some of the pawnbrokers are guilty of another evasion of the law. Each of these shops has what is called a "hustler," who, for one dollar a day, stands in the middle of the sidewalk and accosts passers with: "My friend, come in and let me sell you an overcoat for almost nothing," or a watch or some other article which the hustler thinks will strike the passer's fancy. The hustler invariably catches the passer by the arm, and if he stops or hesitates he is literally dragged into the den, and of course comes out shorn. If the man passes without noticing the hustler he is often subjected to some jarring remark, such as: "He needs a new coat," "Those pantalons choke your legs, my friend," etc.

A few days ago an officer arrested one of these hustlers for blocking the sidewalk and making a nuisance of himself generally. The officer permitted the fellow to go into the shop for his coat, when the hustler refused to come out, and informed the officer that he would not be arrested unless on a warrant. The officer, however, marched him to the station. He was fined ten dollars for obstructing the street. The hustler now stands in the door of the shop and grabs only those that come nearest.

There are, of course, reputable pawnbrokers who conduct their business in a perfectly honorable way and comply fully with the letter and spirit of the law. But the nature of the business is such as to tempt unscrupulous methods, and thus the calling is afflicted with a number that require watching.

COLUMBIA'S MOVING MOUNTAIN

A Railway Fetched Eight Feet Out by It in a Few Years.

A traveling mountain is found at the Cascades of the Columbia. It is a triple-peaked mass of dark-brown basalt, six or eight miles in length where it fronts the river, and rises to a height of almost two thousand feet above the water. That it is in motion, says Goldthwait's Geographical Magazine, is the last thought which would be likely to suggest itself to the mind of anyone passing it, yet it is a well-established fact that this entire mountain is moving slowly but steadily down to the river, as if it had a deliberate purpose some time in the future to dam the Columbia and form a great lake from the cascades to the Dalles. The Indian traditions indicate immense movements of the mountains in that region long before white men came to Oregon, and the early settlers—immigrants many of them from New England—gave the above described mountainous ridge the name of "traveling" or "sliding" mountain.

In its forward and downward movement the forests along the base of the ridge have become submerged in the river. Large tree stumps can be seen standing deep in the water on this shore. The railway engineers and the brakemen find that the line of the railway which skirts the foot of the mountain is being continually forced out of place. At certain points the permanent way and rails have been pushed eight or ten feet out of line in a few years. Geologists attribute this strange phenomenon to the fact that the basalt, which constitutes the bulk of the mountain, rests on a substratum of conglomerate or soft sandstone which the deep, swift current of the mighty river is constantly wearing away, or that this softer subrock is of itself yielding at great depths to the enormous weight of the harder mass of basalt above.

DIAMONDS FROM THE HEAVENS.

They Have Been Secured for the Mineral Exhibit of the Exposition.

Two absolutely unique specimens have been secured for the mineral exhibit of the Columbian exposition. These are a mass of meteoric iron from Arizona weighing six hundred and thirty-two pounds and a smaller piece from the same locality which is far more interesting, because in it are plainly seen the first diamonds ever discovered in meteoric iron. Prof. A. E. Foote, of Philadelphia, read a paper before the geological section of the American association at its recent meeting in Washington in which he detailed the discovery of the diamonds in a fragment of one of these shooting stars. The diamonds are little ones, but the field of scientific speculation they open up as to the origin of the gem and life on other worlds than ours is immense.

The specimens were found near Cannon Diablo, Arizona, last June. Prof. Foote sent a fragment weighing forty pounds to Prof. G. A. Koerber for examination. He found it to be extremely hard, a day and a half being taken in making a section, and several chisels being broken in the operation. An emery wheel was ruined in trying to polish the section. This led to closer inspection of certain exposed cavities, where small black diamonds were found that cut polished corundum as easily as a knife might cut gypsum. These diamonds are mineralogically of great interest, the presence of such in meteoric matter having been unknown till 1887, when two Russian mineralogists found traces of diamonds in a meteorite mixture of olivine and bronze.

RECLAIMING THE SAHARA.

Thousands of Acres Rendered Fertile by Flowing Wells.

The most remarkable example of reclamation by means of artesian well water is found in the desert provinces or departments of Algeria under the French rule. The area, officially given, of French Algeria, is 184,465 square miles. The outlying portion is put at 133,000 square miles. In this total of over 320,415 square miles, one half belongs to the Sahara desert. Cultivation by the means of flowing well waters has been sedulously fostered by the French colonial government. Such wells began systematically to be bored in 1857, the French engineer, M. Jus, having demonstrated in 1850 that the desert was endowed with large supplies of underground water.

The total number of wells that have been bored since that date in the departments of Algiers, Oran and Constantine is stated at 13,135. These wells range from 75 to 400 feet in depth, and the low pressure common to the majority of them forces the water over the casings to a distance of about two feet above the ground. The waters are then collected in small ditches, which convey them to the vineyards, date trees and fields of durra, millet, wheat, etc., which comprise the chief products. In all about 12,000,000 acres have been reclaimed in this way. The government borers are at least 1-10 of the whole number.

AN INGENIOUS COYOTE.

The Clever Manner in Which He Freed Himself from Fleas.

Coyotes are no fools, according to a correspondent of the San Jose (Cal.) Mercury. While camping near the bank of a small stream he noticed a single coyote proceed to an old coral, where lay some dead sheep. He walked directly up to one of them, and grubbing as much wool in his mouth as he could conveniently hold, started without any apparent hesitation toward a shallow part of the stream. On arriving at the water instead of plunging in head foremost he turned and began to back slowly down into the water. Gradually the water arose along his and then to his sides, until only his head appeared. Closing his eyes with seemingly the utmost contentment he backed still further down until he was completely immersed, when with a quick jerk he released the wool and appeared on the bank in the greatest delight. An examination showed that the bunch of floating wool was fairly alive with fleas.

A NEW GAME.

Which Is Said to Be Popular Among Railway Travelers in England.

Among the many devices resorted to for lessening the tediousness of a long railway journey, not the least ingenious is the new game described in the following letter addressed to the London Times by a travelling correspondent:

Will you allow me to describe a new game for the benefit of those who do not wish to be unconscious players at it? It is played in railway trains or any public place, and I can best explain it by giving my own experience. I was alone in a first-class carriage, when two young gentlemen and their three sisters, as I suppose, entered. I learned from their conversation that they supposed we should pass a certain station where they intended on their way to leave a parcel. I thought it would be civil to tell them that we had already passed it. They thanked me most courteously, and the gentleman who had first mentioned the parcel made a pencil mark on his cuff. Shortly after that one of the young ladies asked her brother the time, and as none of the party seemed to have a watch, and were very much out in their guesses as to what the hour was, I again ventured, though a man of few words, to tell them what I thought they really wanted to know. Again I noticed that the young lady who had first asked the time furtively made a mark on her cuff. My fellow-travelers seemed to know so little about the route we were taking that out of pure kindness I interposed several more times, and whenever I did so they thanked me profusely, and I observed that some one either wrote on his or her cuff, or scored something down elsewhere. Presently they divided some money among themselves. I have since discovered that I was the victim of the game of "Lure." The game is a simple one. The players take it in turn to start a conversation strictly among themselves, with a view of inducing a stranger to break into it. The points are any sum agreed upon. If the lure takes effect all the players pay the starter. If the lure takes effect but the person lured answers wrong, the starter is paid double. All the players are bound to support the starter. I learned this afterward.

GREAT AUTOGRAPH BOOKS.

Signatures of Visitors to Philadelphia Preserved for Future Ages.

Mr. William Habe, superintendent of the state house portrait hall, in the course of an interview with a reporter the other day, gave some interesting facts about the visitors' book, of which he is the custodian. The book lies on a raised desk at the right of the hall, and all visitors to the state house are allowed to inscribe their names in it for future generations to gaze upon.

"The book," said Superintendent Habe, "was started in 1876 for the sole use of visitors to the centennial exhibition, and it proved vastly popular from the beginning. It has never been settled who originated the plan of keeping a record of Philadelphia's visitors, but it was the centennial commission, in all probability."

"Each book contains about 20,400 names, and we use up two a year; so you see that during the last fifteen years nearly 315,000 non-residents have affixed their signatures to the books. Then, too, like most any other business, there are months when we do a very small business in the chirography line and others when the trade booms. March is the lightest month in the year. We average from seventy-five to eighty-five names a day during that month. After March it keeps increasing daily until August, when the high water mark is reached. Last August averaged two hundred and fifty names a day. From August on it begins to go down until we come around to March again, when we touch low water mark."

"Only about half the people who visit the portrait hall write their names in the book. Some have a natural aversion to a 'promiscuous distribution'—as an elderly gentleman told me the other day—of their signatures, while others are not aware of the book's existence."

"There are signers from all over the world. Every country is represented, from civilized England and France to semi-civilized China and Persia."

"The city intends to keep the books with the other city records, and in two or three hundred years from now, I dare say, the books will be considered very valuable and interesting relics."—Philadelphia Press.

A Buried Pond.

A remarkable freak of nature is found among the hills of Delaware county, N. Y., in a sunken lake covering about three acres of surface, which lies between two parallel ridges not far from the New York, Ontario & Western railroad. The whole surface of the lake is covered with a thick growth of moss whose stems extend to an unknown depth, but certainly further than the arm can reach. Each tuft of the moss is of a different color from its neighbor, so that the surface looks like that of a beautiful colored carpet. In walking over the velvety surface the foot sinks down a few inches without encountering the water, which is at least two feet below the surface. Near the shore, in a few places, the water comes to the top. The buried pond is a wonderful curiosity.

Cause of the Sky's Blueness.

The interesting discovery that oxygen in its liquid state is blue has been made by M. Olzewski. To obtain this appearance it is only necessary to have a sufficient quantity of the liquid to form a layer about a twenty-fifth of an inch in thickness. This blue color is precisely that of the sky. This is significant. The thought will at once occur that the blueness of the sky is due to the intrinsic color of the oxygen of the atmosphere. For it is reasonable to suppose that though the atmosphere does only contain oxygen in its gaseous form, the layer of many miles in thickness through which we gaze may manifest the color which rightly belongs to oxygen, and is shown in the liquid state of that gas in a layer of only one twenty-fifth of an inch in thickness.

FRESH FOREIGN FACTS.

The population of Greece is increasing faster than that of any other country in Europe at present.

A Swedish anarchist has started an anarchistic Sunday-school at Nordkoping, a city of about 20,000 inhabitants in Sweden.

The coachmen of Berlin wear a distinctive hat when conveying physicians, and are granted the right of way by a city ordinance.

A judge in Glasgow has decided that the amount of copper used in tinned green peas was not dangerous, and that the process need not be stopped.

The population of St. Petersburg is steadily diminishing. It is less by eighty-five thousand than it was at the census taken seven years ago. No other European capital is thus decreasing.

In France a new "magic mirror" has lately been introduced. It consists essentially of a glass plate coated with a film of platinum so thin as to be transparent to light coming through from behind, while being a true mirror or reflector to light impinging it from the front.

MECHANICAL SCIENCE.

The practice of "cold sawing" of steel and iron is being generally adopted.

Improved engine practice has caused the adoption of a mechanical device for constant feeding of fuel to the furnaces.

A new mode of furnishing power to motor engines by mixing steam with hot gases is creating a great deal of interest in English circles.

Peat fuel has been found very successful in Russia. It is produced by a patent process, and is cheaper than coal, has less weight and bulk, and contains scarcely any sulphur.

IRON has been rolled to the thinness of 1-1800 of an inch. This excessive tenuity will be understood when it is considered that the thinnest tissue paper measures 1-1300 of an inch.

SCIENCE comes to the front in the manufacture of grindstones. The best now made are composed of a mixture of pulverized quartz, powdered flint, powdered emery, and rubber. They outwear by many years any natural stone.

FIGS AND THISTLES.

CHARACTER is capital. LOAFERS are never happy. AN aimless life is a fruitless life. THERE is no rest in doing nothing. WE are all willing to admit the depravity of other folks.

A MAN is very small if you can put all there is of him into a coffin.

A GREAT many giants become very small when you get close to them.

EVERY dollar some men get widens the gulf between them and Heaven.

A HUNGRY poet forgets that he is hungry while he is reading his own poetry.

HOW EASY it is to find people who are anxious to do good—at somebody else's expense.

THE man who attends strictly to his own business will always have a business to attend to.

A GREAT man is always more surprised than anybody else, when he finds out that he is great.—Ram's Horn.

REMINDERS OF DAYS GONE BY.

THE earliest coin for American use was made about 1612 and bore as a design the picture of a hog.

THE first land office erected in Kansas is still standing at Kickapoo, between Atchison and Leavenworth.

A DIRECTORY of the city of Portland, Me., for the year 1858 has been brought to light, and in it appears this line: "Blaine, J. G., editor Advertiser, boards U. S. hotel."

Among the exhibits at the Fryeburg (Me.) fair recently was a plow that has been in use for 115 years, and a picture framed in a board cut from a pine log 120 years ago.

An interesting relic of the past at old Pemaquid, Mass., is a street 30 feet wide paved with medium-sized flat stones, raised in the middle and having good gutters and curbs of large stones, besides a fine sidewalk 11½ feet wide. The street was built in 1630, it is said.

ALL OVER THE FARM.

A MILKER who has a nervous, unsteady hand will soon ruin a cow.

LAND well cultivated and kept clean year after year has fewer weeds and is easier to cultivate.

BUTTER makers are warned to soak and not steam their tubs. When steamed it is difficult to get the butter out.

CLOVER makes excellent silage when it is put up properly, but it requires careful handling and heavy weighting, or it is liable to spoil.

WE have no doubt that many horses are fed too much. It is worth while to experiment to see if your horse will not do as well or better on less food.

THE mad who complains that his cows are unruly can safely be set down as a poor farmer, and very often he is a cruel one, who deserves punishment. Most unruly cows are made so by hunger.

WORK OF THE INVENTORS.

A DOLL that writes letters on a slate is a recent invention of a machinist in Nuremberg, Germany.

A SOLUTION called diamond ink has been invented which enables one to write upon glass. It is necessary to allow it to remain upon the glass about fifteen minutes before wiping off.

A SCARF pin invented by a joker is made of a genuine clove encircled by a silver snake, and mounted on a card with this inscription: "Well, what's yours? Well, I'll take the same!"

TO TAKE the place of an old-fashioned needle a Brooklyn man has invented an ear piercer which looks like a sky rocket with a long fuse. The point pierces the ear, carrying with it the gold wire, and the shaft is then withdrawn.

CHRONICLE-UNION.

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